A Narrative of a Monſtrous Birth in Plymouth, *Octob.* 22. 1670; *together with the Anatomical Obſervations, taken thereupon by* William Durſton *Doctor in Phyſick, and communicated to Dr.* Tim. Clerk.

ONE, *Grace Batter'd*, the wife of a ſhoemaker, of honeſt Repute, and mother of five Children, now come to the full time to be delivered of a ſixth Birth, about twelve a Clock at night began to have travelling pains; and near four a Clock in the morning the Head of a Child came to the Birth: When the Midwife, putting her hand to help off this, felt another, (by its heat and motion) alive; and therefore made all poſſible ſpeed to deliver her of this.

'Tis obſervable, that in three of her former five travels ſhe was ſo quick, as that ſhe was deliver'd before the Midwife came; but now ſhe could not ſo ſpeedily effect her deſire, in regard that not only the firſt child was ſuffocated by its ſtay in the birth; but alſo the Head of the ſecond turning aſide from the inner orifice of the *Uterus* towards the groine, and the Twins being joyn'd together (as afterwards appeared) made it a different Birth. But the Midwife doing her part exceeding well, and the Mother having nimble travel, was delivered of thoſe prodigious Twins, the *effigies* of which is here ſent you incloſed, (See *Table* 2. *Figure* 1.) together with an Accompt of what we thought further worth obſervation.

This Birth, as you ſee, had two Heads, and two Necks, as alſo the Eyes, Mouths, and Ears, ſutably double. Four Arms with Hands, and as many Leggs and Feet. There was to both but one Trunk; but two Back-bones, from the *Clavicles* to the *Hypogaſtrium*, and from the ſhoulders down to the bottom of the Loins they were not diſtinct, but cemented and concorporated, after this manner: The right *Clavicle* or Channel-bone of the Right-hand-Child (being long) joyned with the left *Clavicle* of the Left-hand-Child. The Ribbs on the face-ſide of both of them, by the Cartilages or Griſtles were united without any intervening *Sternum* or Breſt-bone; and

and ſo made a common Cheſt to them both: And the Ribbs of both on the Back-part were united by the Griſtles; and from the Clavicle down to the *Hypogaſtrium* or bottom of the Belly there, were ſo conjoyned, that they made but one common Belly, with one Navel-ſtring to them both; but from the *Hypogaſtrium* downwards they were divided, and became two, each having the perfect parts of Females.

Having with ſome difficulty obtained the Fathers leave to diſſect it, we firſt weighed this Birth; the weight whereof was *eight* pounds and a *quarter*; the Circumference of the left head was about *eleven* Inches, that of the right being half an Inch leſs. The Circumference of the Trunk was about *Sixteen* Inches and a *quarter*; and the length of both, from head to foot, was full *eighteen* inches and *an half*.

We found one Navil-vein, and one Liver, but that was very large, with the Bladder of Gall ſeated in its uſual place: but there were two Urinary Bladders, two Wombs, four Kidneys, and one Stomach, with the *Oeſophagus* or Gullet perforate and open from the Mouth of the left head; but the *Oeſophagus* from the Mouth of the right head deſcended no lower, than a little above half an inch off the Mid-riff, and there it ended. No further could we follow it with the probe, but doubting a failure in that Experiment, we made an eſſay with a Blow-pipe, and thereby we found, that the Wind would go no further than the place abovementioned. Whence it may be concluded, that the Right-handed Child muſt have received its nouriſhment by and from the Left Child.

There was but one *Colon* or Colick gut, which terminated into two *Inteſtina recta*. So there was but one Midriff, and above that, we could find little or no appearance of Lungs; but only a very large Heart, (with two Auricles,) the figure of which was not Conical, but like a Souldiers *pera* or Snapſack, or the Ventricle or Stomach; and lying near under the Clavicles, tranſverſe, as the Stomach lyeth under the Midriff and Liver. We did alſo obſerve two Ventricles with the tricuſpid or ſigmoid-valves; as alſo the *Vena Cava* and *Aorta* dependant, and alſo the *Aorta* aſcending and biſurcate towards each neck, and then biſurcate again.

Theſe

Theſe Twins were exactly like one another; very well featured, having alſo pretty neat and handſome Limbs. They had their hair more than ordinarily thick, and about half an Inch long, and the nails full grown.

We might have proceeded to further Obſervations, but time and the tumultuous concourſe of people, as alſo the night, and likewiſe the Fathers importunity to haſten the Birth to the Grave, hindred us.

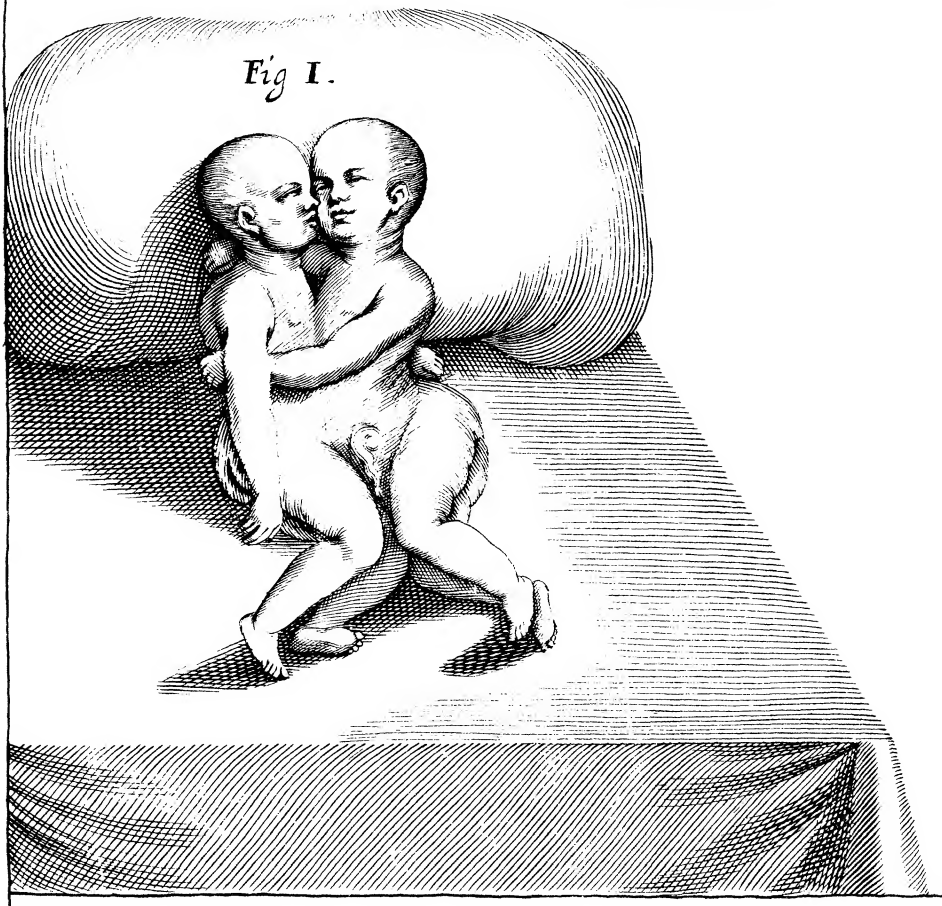
The Mother is at this time in as good a Condition of Health, as Women in Child-bed uſe to be.

Obſervations on Inſects, lodging themſelves in Old Willows, Produced before the Royal Society *by Dr.* Edmund King, *July* 14. 1670.

—YOu may remember, that about the *beginning* of *May* laſt, a piece of old Willow-wood, being ſent me from Sir *John Bernhard* out of *Northamptonſhire*, was produced before you; in which were lodged many Inſects curiouſly wrapt up in green Leaves, in ſeveral channels or burrows, each with 12. 14. or 16. leaves round the Body, and ſeveral of them with as many little round bites of leaves at each end, to ſtop them up cloſe. Theſe, thus made up, are near an Inch long or the beſt part of an inch, put in one after another into a bore made in the wood, fit for their reception. They are in the manner of Cartrages of Powder, wherewith Piſtols are wont to be Charged, or like long ſlugs of lead, as are ſometimes uſed in ſome parts of thoſe burrows; they are placed ſo near one another as to touch; in others, at ſome conſiderable diſtance. Theſe Inſects obſerve this method in placing themſelves, that ſometimes they make a direct way into the length of the wood, ſometimes they bore out into the ſide, and run another way, thoſe Channels being not unlike the burrows of Rabbets; all which they fill up with theſe round appearances of wrapt leaves, all regularly wrought: In which I find either ſomething alive, or appearances of ſomething that hath dyed there, and is putrified: In ſome a great number of Mites,

of

Fig I.



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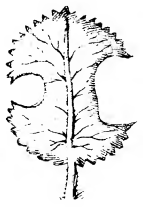

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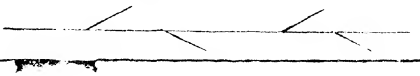

VIII